

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add new claims 18-21.

Claim 1 (original): A method for reducing pests in an object or area, said method comprising applying to said object or area a pest reducing effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of iodoacetic acid, bromoacetic acid, 2-iodoacetamide, 2-bromoacetamide, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said pests are selected from the group consisting of fungi, insects, nematodes, bacteria, weeds, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 2, wherein said pests are fungi.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 3, wherein said fungi are *Fusarium* spp.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 2, wherein said pests are insects.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 2, wherein said pests are nematodes.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 6, wherein said nematodes are *Meliodogyne* spp.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 2, wherein said pests are bacteria.

Claim 9 (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein said pests are weeds.

Claim 10 (original): The method according to claim 9, wherein said weeds are selected from the group consisting of *Amaranthus hybridus*, *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *Cyperus rotundus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said object or area is selected from the group consisting of soil, structures, agricultural commodities, plants, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (original): The method according to claim 11, wherein said object or area is soil.

Claim 13 (original): The method according to claim 12, wherein said pest reducing effective amount is about 40 to about 1200 pounds/acre.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is iodoacetic acid.

Claim 15 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is bromoacetic acid.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is 2-iodoacetamide.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is 2-bromoacetamide.

Claim 18 (new): The method according to claim 12, wherein said applying is pre-bedding, pre-transplant, pre-seed, or pre-plant.

Claim 19 (new): The method according to claim 12, wherein said method fumigates said soil.

Claim 20 (new): The method according to claim 1, said method consisting essentially of applying to said object or area a pest reducing effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of iodoacetic acid, bromoacetic acid, 2-iodoacetamide, 2-bromoacetamide, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21 (new): The method according to claim 1, said method consisting of applying to said object or area a pest reducing effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of iodoacetic acid, bromoacetic acid, 2-iodoacetamide, 2-bromoacetamide, and mixtures thereof.